

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 /018 R

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APPROVED BY: D/HAORM:SCLOWMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193017

FOLLOWING REPEAT KUALA LUMPUR 4467 ACTION SINGAPORE
SECSTATE INFO HONG KONG JAKARTA SANA TOKYO DTD 04 AUG

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TEGS: SREF SN

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD CAPE ERIMO

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 3677, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 4352 (NOTAL)

1. CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY MALAYSIAN HICOM SECOND
SECRETARY TO EMBASSY SINGAPORE WE CONSIDER IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY
GOM WOULD ACCEDE TO A REQUEST THAT "CAPE ERIMO" REFUGEES BE
OFFLOADED AT PORT KLANG. AS NOTED REFTEL B,
MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT IT
TOOK A DIRECT PERSONAL APPEAL BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HIMSELF TO PERSUADE THE GOM TO ALLOW
22 REFUGEES FROM "GREEN BAY" TO BE OFFLOADED IN PENANG IN
JUNE. IN VIEW OF OTHER INDICATIONS GOM POLICY HARDENING ON
TREATMENT OF NEWLY ARRIVING REFUGEES PLUS FACT 22 FROM GREEN
BAY NOT YET MOVED WE CONSIDER IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO COUNT ON
THE GOM TAKING REFUGEES THAT HAD BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION LAND
BY GOS.

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2. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE PRINCIPLE SIMILAR TO THAT IN "AVA" CASE WHEREBY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY OF THE FIRST PORT OF CALL OF A VESSEL WITH REFUGEES ABOARD WOULD GRANT TEMPORARY ENTRY TO SUCH PERSONS (PER GENEMA 6091) SHOULD BE PURSUED WITH GOS. PRESUMABLY, UNHCR REP SAMPATKUMAR WHO HAS DEALING WITH THIS GROUP OF REFUGEES HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSING FIRST PORT OF CALL PRINCIPLE WITH THE GOS. IF NOT, HE SHOULD BE.

3. EMBASSY SINGAPORE COMMENT (PARA FOUR REFTEL A) THAT ABSENCE OF SAMPATKUMAR FROM HIS K.L. OFFICE CREATES A VOID IN DEALING WITH GOM IS CORRECT, AS WE HAVE LEARNED IN OUR EFFORTS TO DETERMINE STATUS OF BOATLOAD OF 94 REFUGEES THAT ARRIVED AT KUALA TRENGGANU JULY 25. WHEN WE SPOKE WITH HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING WE WERE TOLD THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHEN HE WILL BE RETURNING FROM HONG KONG.
UNDERHILL UNQTE HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE193017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D/HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760300-0922
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760886/aaaacyak.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SINGAPORE 3677, 76 KUALA LUMPUR 4352
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <06 Jan 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD CAPE ERIMO
TAGS: SREF, SN, MY
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006